

You Are Free, Now What?? The Re-Entry Problem Issue 8 ~ February 2018

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects free speech. Regulations that permit the government or its employees to discriminate on the basis of the content of the message cannot be tolerated under the First Amendment (i). Further, prisoners retain free speech rights. Thought control, by means of prohibiting beliefs, would not only be undesirable but impossible (ii). Fact of confinement and needs of the penal institution impose rational limitations on prisoner free speech rights (iii), but those restrictions must have a "valid, rational connection" to "legitimate penological interests" not related to the content of ideas (iv). Regulations and practices can only be justified when the practice "furthers an important or substantial government interest unrelated to the suppression of expression" (v). This means you cannot legally suppress the expression of ideas. Prison walls do not serve to form a barrier separating prisoners from the protections of the constitution (vi). Core political speech is most-zealously guarded and there is a public interest "in having free and unhindered debate on matters of public importance--the core value of the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment" (vii). Thus, exclusion of printed material on the basis of its political perspective amounts to free speech retaliation and discrimination, which is illegal (viii). If you exclude printed material for an unlawful basis, or if you simply conjure up a false pretext for its exclusion, you have broken the law. The prisoner recipient of this mail has cause for bringing a civil rights action against you and has cause for gaining punitive damages--which means money. You and everyone who permits this action, from your supervisor to the director of the prison system, may be named in those civil actions, and you may also be subject to termination from your employment. Because this primer is included in this mailing, you will not be able to claim you did not know your actions were illegal. For these reasons, we ask that you conform to federal law and refrain from unlawful discrimination against the enclosed materials, permitting mail service of this literature that objectively meets all legitimate criteria set forth in prison regulations.

CASE CITATIONS i, Reagan v. Time, Inc., 468 U.S. 641, 648-49, 104 SCt 3262 (1984). "[T]he fact that society may find speech offensive is not sufficient reason for suppressing it. Indeed, if it is the speakers' opinion that gives offense, that consequence is a reason for according it constitutional protection." Hustler Magazine, Inc v. Falwell, 495 US 45, 46, 108 SCt 876, 882. The government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable, U.S. v. Eichman, 496 US 310, 319, 110 SCt 2404 (1990). "[A]bove all else, the First Amendment means that government has no power to restrict expression because of its message, its ideas, its subject matter, or its content." Police Dept. of Chicago v. Mosley, 408 US 92, 95, 92 SCt 2286, 2290 (1972). ii, Jones v. North Carolina Prisoners Labor Union, 433 US 119,97 SCt 2532 (1977). iii, Pell v. Procunier, 417 US 817, 822, 94 Set 2800, 2804 (1974). iv, Turner v. Safely, 482 US 78, 107 SCt 2245 (1987). v, Turner, supra. vi, Turner, supra. vii, Pickering v. Board of Education, 391 US 563, 573, 88 SCt 1731 (1968). viii, Abu-Jamal v. Price, 154 F3d 128 (3rd Cir., 1998); X v. Blatter, 175 F3d 378 (6th Cir. 1999)

A Paid-For Periodical Subscription
PO Box 414304
Kanss City, MO 64141

A Paid-For Periodical
Subscription
PO Box 414304
Kansas City, MO 64141

You Are Free, Now What?? The Re-Entry Problem

Issue 8 ~ February 2018

I would like to thank you in advance for the opportunity that are giving us all. I am writing to express my fears and concerns with getting help from the state when I'm released. I'm expressing my concerns directly because so many of us feel that we don't have a voice that will be heard or the right words to say of anyone is listening.

Re-entry is a very sensitive, fearful and prideful topic that needs a voice. I say sensitive, fearful and prideful topic that needs a voice. I say sensitive because many of us have returned to prison, are without education, self-respect, goals or achievements that we can take pride in. Many of us are fearful of change, our convictions being exposed, rejection, and failure. This topic is prideful, but for all of the wrong reasons. False pride leaves us dishonest, without a positive and caring attitude, and unwilling to communicate.

When I was young, I was confused, angry, un-educated, disrespectful, and constantly engaged in criminal behavior. For my criminal behavior, I received 15 years with a mandatory minimum of 85% to serve before I'm eligible for parole.

During these 15 years, I realized, - unlike so many others - that I'm responsible for my own life - past and present, good and bad. I chose to take a look at myself because I didn't like the person that I saw in the mirror. Being away from my family and especially my son hurt! I decided to do something about it, I made up my mind to be the master of my destiny.

I started to make constant adjustment to how I applied my time and energy. I have received a GED, over 30 certificates from self-help programs, and am currently in the process of enrolling in a University to become an Electrician.

Now that I am so close to re-entering society, my major goal is staying out of prison. My plan is to be creative and determined, interacting with positive people in positive places, and having help - resources - from the state. This is where my fears come to surface, needing help from the state.

I have experience requesting or applying for what is supposed to be available to us before and after we are released from prison. My fear is that I will be denied by the state for services such as: Housing Authority, Federal

Continued on Page 3...



Artist: James Rubio

SUBMIT ARTWORK

If you would like to send artwork to appear in this newsletter, you can send it to us at:

IWOC HQ
PO BOX 414304
Kansas City, MO
64141

Or you can send it to the local IWOC that you may already be writing to.

Solidarity!
Brianna



JOIN US

The Incarcerated Worker is a publication of the Incarcerated Worker Organizing Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World. Join the rank-and-file union that's organizing prisoners internationally! Send name, ID #, and address to:

IWW IWOC
PO Box 414304
Kansas City, MO 64141-4304

CONTRIBUTE

The Incarcerated Worker features prisoners' writings of prisoners, welcoming contributions of writing and art particularly from a revolutionary labor perspective, all subject to editing for space and for content. Contributions should be sent to:

Kent Books to Prisoners
CSI Box X
KSU Student Center
Kent, OH 44242

Editorial Policy

Collectively, we may not know exactly what we're looking for, but we'll know it when we see it. And we may not know what we're not looking for, but we'll definitely get plenty of it.

We have to decide: Do we want to produce quality that will inspire and move people and contribute to a goal, or do we want to be a forum for terrible material no one else will print?

I opt for the first. So, I suggest our editorial policy should be fluid and evolving and organic, case by case, issue to issue. In other words, no real policy at all.

—Editor FW Sean Swain

Due to limited printing capacity, content should be kept shorter than 5 pages.

Send your self-addressed stamped envelopes with requests for back issues, so we can save on postage.

Remember to share and spread things around so we can all grow!

However, this fluid policy is subject to change at the democratic will of incarcerated workers like YOU! Fellow workers in Missouri prisons suggested a rotation of contributing authors. Authors shall be set in rotation each issue, so each gets a turn to share their voice.

The more articles you send the more we can put in rotation. The articles should teach and motivate each other. The paper's goal is solidarity through communal knowledge; each one teach one!

—Outside Editor, Mike L.

Junior Webblies Union Committee, Top 5 Win					
Nicholas Zastrow	211	33	8	1	253
Arja Wilk	455	83	13	1	552
Brianne Pemberton	375	70	9	1	455
Nick Posey	214	22	11	1	248
Jeff Jones	236	58	2		296
Jay Gells	167	23	3	1	194
Jay Casey	125	27	8		160
James McNamara	215	57	5		277
Poppy Jones	17	11			28
J From Kc	3				3
Central secretary-treasurer of the General Defense Committee, Top 1 Wins					
Shug! Mississippi	958	102	16	1	677
Anyone But Shuge	2		1		3
Anyone Else	2		1		3
Brad Laird	2				2
Joe Hill	2				2
Solidaridad Editor, Top 1 Wins					
Krystle M. Knight	272	99	6		367
Emily John-Martin	214	17	9	1	241
Education Department Development Special Committee, Top 2 Win					
Max Holland	537	95	16	1	649
Arja Wilk	1	2			3
Krystle M Knight		2			2
Mark Maxey	6				6
Tara Forbes	3				3
John Peck	2				2
Lucy Parsons	2				2
Sadie Cox	2				2
Brendan Rogers			2		2
Legal Defense Probing Committee, Top 2 Win					
Kirk Cummings	445	58	13	1	517
Brianne Peril	505	101	14	1	621
Daniel Gross	2				2
Conflict Resolution Committee on Matters of Gender, Top 5 Win					
Hayden Muller	417	71	13	1	502
Jeff Jones	421	65	12	1	499
Rhiannon Carlson	510	65	16	1	592
Mark Maxey	423	78	11	1	513
Christian Wade	5	3			8
Brianne Peril		2			2
Cole Dorsey		2			2
Milo Gray	2				2
Jenny Cal	2		1		3
Amendment 1: resolution on job shops					
Yes	704	91	23	1	819
No	55	12	0	0	67
Amendment 2: prevent discrimination against ex convicts					
Yes	724	96	21	1	842
No	76	4	3	0	83
Amendment 3: motion to add language to Article III, section one of the constitution regarding the conflict resolution committee for matters of gender					
Yes	709	93	22	1	825
No	69	2	2	0	73
Amend general bylaws article II Defense					
Yes	661	88	18	1	768
No	98	12	5	0	115
Constitutional and MPP amendments (audit, finance, literature committees)					
Yes	640	96	23	1	760
No	61	4	0	0	65
Resolution: expel Jimi Del Duca from the IWW					
Yes	572	94	16	0	672
No	151	12	8	1	172

their staples removed. I wonder if the prisons' censors removed these staples, if staples limited prisoner participation, or if staples could hinder prisoner voting in the future. I appeal to IWOC and incarcerated workers to consider if this has been the case or if it can be a future issue.

The 2017 IWW Annual Referendum Ballot Committee, Jasmin Mesinger, Christopher Preciado, Neal Rysdahl, Kelsey Walker, 30 November 2017, Chicago, IL

ballots by marking our names on the tally sheets or by separating the ballot stacks. Upon tallying up the ballots, we gave our stacks to another FW to verify and correct our count and tally sheet by checking each single item voted upon in all ballots. We consulted each other where there were discrepancies. The session recessed between 12:18 pm and 12:45 pm for lunch. After lunch it came to the committee's attention that FW Rysdahl had an eight (8) day lapse in which he did not have his dues paid. He was not in fact in good standing for one (1) full year as of 30 November 2017. This did not hinder our work. FW Christopher shredded 2014's ballot materials. We all counted the tally sheets and added up both the mail-in and electronic ballots, double checking one another's arithmetic. FWs Kelsey and Christopher performed all data entry for the final election results document (attached), which Neal also helped verify for accuracy. In the final election results document, we omitted the write-ins that received only one (1) total vote. The final election results are attached in this e-mail as a PDF. The election committee adjourned at 10:48 pm on 30 November 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend to the GEB and membership that phone-in voting be removed as an option for referendum because of extremely low participation this year (not even one completed ballot) compared to electronic and mail-in voting participation, as well as phone-in voting's expensiveness.

PERSONAL COMMENT BY CHRISTOPHER

Many mail-in ballots had

2017 NARA IWW Election and Referendum Results!

	US E Ballot	US Paper	CANROC E Ballot	ANROC Paper	TOTAL	
General Secretary-Treasurer, Top 1 Wins						
Travis Erikson		577	100	14	1	692
Arella Vargas		10				10
Randall Jamrock		9				9
Anyone But Travis		2				2
Graham Kovich		2		3		5
Lucy Parsons		2				2
General Executive Board, Top 7 Win						
David Tucker		309	58	12		379
Brianna Peril		505	93	15	1	614
Cole Dorsey		352	73	10	1	436
Anthony Khaled		416	63	11	1	491
Amanie El-Haj		488	65	21	1	575
Jay Kryan		298	33	10	1	342
Jesse Orland		339	37	13		389
Brandon Savers		272	58	5	1	333
Tai Maag		444	72	14	1	531
Greg Williams			2			2
Marianne Lenebat		3				3
Danielle Longchamps		2				2
Diane Krauthamer		2				2
DJ Alperovitz		4				4
Randall Jamrock		2				2
Organizing Department Board, Top 5 Win						
Max Baru		430	61	15	1	507
Andrew Feagle		409	59	14	1	483
Jon Stemle		411	53	13	1	478
Luis Brennan		463	59	15	1	538
Morganane Mary-Poulot		532	89	20	1	642
Brendan Rogers		4				4
Julia Walker		3				3
Nick Driedger		2				2
Tara Forbes		2				2
2017 Convention Host Site, Top 1 Wins						
Edmonton GMB, Canada		214	24	14		252
Greater Kansas City GMB		479	75	8	1	563
Washington D.C.		1	2			3
Raleigh-durham Gmb		6				6
North Carolina		2				2
Portland Gmb		3				3
Press Officer, Top 1 Wins						
Cole Dorsey		582	102	20	1	705
Gender Equity Committee, Top 5 Win						
Heather Hall		417	76	16		509
Emma Parsons		287	31	9	1	328
Mia Robidoux		387	66	14		467
Christian Wade		189	54	2	1	246
Jill Robinson		296	69	6		371
Kristin Lang		198	25	4		227
Julie David		113	15	4	1	133
Jenny Cat		286	31	9	1	327
Hannah Elizabeth		197	34	9	1	241
Mia Sopapila		1	2			3
International Solidarity Commission, Top 3 Win						
Kieran Knutson		534	81	16	1	632
FW Sparrow		471	63	16	1	551
Brianna Peril			2			2
Brandon Sowers		6	1	1		8
James Mchamara		5				5
Arianna Aguilar		2				2
John Peck		2				2

but rejected four (4) late ballots postmarked two to three (2-3) days before said due date. One (1) mail-in ballot was rejected because it was written on the tally sheet. Some envelopes contained letters to IWOC. After separating the ballots from the envelopes, we handed these letters to FW Warren to scan and send to IWOC. We each used the tally sheets to individually tally up approximately ten (10) ballots at a time. With a paperclip, we affixed these tally sheets to the ballots we counted. We made it clearly known who tallied which

2017 NARA Ballot Committee Report

Total Ballots Received: 958 (nine hundred and fifty-eight), Number of Ballots Rejected: 5 (five), Total Ballots Counted: 958 (nine hundred and fifty-eight)

Total Mail-In Ballots: 116 (one hundred and sixteen), Total Electronic Ballots: 842 (eight hundred and forty-two)

Results released on: 30 November 2017

On 30 November 2017, the 2017 NARA Ballot Committee gathered at 2036 W. Montrose in Chicago, IL (IWW GHQ Headquarters). The committee called its session to order at 10:25 am with Christopher Preciado elected as recording secretary. The ballot committee was composed of FWs Jasmin Mesinger, Christopher Preciado, Neal Rysdahl, and Kelsey Walker. Some of us spent the first few minutes reviewing 2014-2016's ballot committee reports, which FW GST Arella Vargas provided us. FW GST Arella Vargas also provided insights as to the scope of our mandate, some light recommendations on how to carry out our work, and printouts of the e-voting results.

BALLOT COUNTING

After light discussion we began by first treating the mail-in ballots, which were in the majority from incarcerated workers. We separated the envelopes from the ballots, placing the envelopes in a bin and the ballots in piles. Twice during the day, FW Warren, who works at GHQ, gave us late ballots. We accepted late ballots postmarked approximately a week before the ballot due date,

Continued from Page 1...

Bonding, Temporary Assistance, and Food Stamp Programs as I have seen many others denied. After being incarcerated for so long, I need help with basic needs like food, clothing, employment, health care, housing, transportation, and rehabilitation programs. These are basic necessities that I need but can not possibly create on my own after being out of society for almost 15 years. Depending on my family for help is not an option because they expect me to return to them as an asset, not a liability they can not afford.

Why do we hear about all of the help that is available to us, then when we apply for these opportunities we have so many difficulties receiving them? The state makes it hard for us to get the help that we need, which makes it easy for us to believe that we are being set up to fail by the system that is supposed to be helping us succeed. We can't get the help, opportunity, or resources that are needed in or outside of prison. We need resources that will help us get out and stay out, to survive responsibly preparing for future achievements and satisfactions.

I believe that us young men who are or fell lost in the system today need some real encouragement. Real opportunities, resources, and advice that gives us a reason to want better lives, construct productive, rewarding futures, and let go of our harmful past would bring about change. This would help us focus our entire being - body and soul - on building a new life with freedom and security. We need resources and opportunities to turn our attention away from the dangers of our past and the fears of what we don't have, toward the future with the opportunities that we do have.

I say thank you again for listening to my experiences, concerns, and fears of re-entering society. I hope that my story is of some help to you.

Respectfully submitted, Lukeyno Rodriguez, ACC Missouri

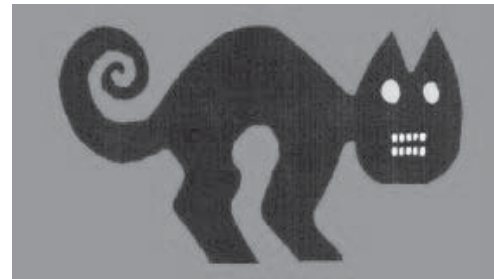
THE BIG TRANSITION

By FW Phillip Ruiz

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE BIG TRANSITION? PEOPLE DWELL ON THE ANSWER WHEN I ASK THAT QUESTION OR WHEN PRISONER SUPPORT GROUPS ARE STRATEGIZING ON HOW BETTER AND MORE EFFECTIVELY THEY CAN SUPPORT PRISONERS ALL THE WHILE NEVER LOSING SIGHT OF THE ULTIMATE GOAL...ABOLISHING PRISONS.

SO, IS THE BIG TRANSITION WHEN A PERSON FIRST GETS VIOLENTLY RIPPED AWAY FROM EVERYTHING THEY HELD DEAR AND PLACED IN PRISON? OR IS THE BIG TRANSITION WHEN AN EXCON, WHO HAD GAINED LITTLE IF ANY REAL WORK OR LIFE SKILLS DURING THEIR PRISON TERM, IS SUDDENLY THRUST BACK INTO THE SAME SAVAGE STREETS AND COMMUNITY THAT HABITUALLY MARGINALIZED AND CRIMINALIZED THEM? LET'S CONSIDER THIS REAL QUICK, IN CALIFORNIA A

RELEASED PRISONER IS GIVEN \$200 (GATE MONEY) MINUS ANY TRANSPORTATION COSTS IT WILL TAKE TO TAKE A BUS HOME AND IS EXPECTED TO SURVIVE ON THAT UNTIL....UNTIL WHEN IS A DAMN GOOD QUESTION. THIS \$200 GATE MONEY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO PRISONERS FOR AT LEAST THE PAST 30 YEARS. NOW. THIRTY YEARS AGO THAT \$200 PROBABLY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN A PRISONER A LOT FARTHER ALONG THEN IT CAN NOW. CONSIDERING THE COST OF LIVING IN CALIFORNIA IS CURRENTLY ABSURDLY HIGH. ALSO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THAT MOST

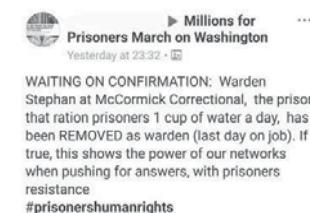
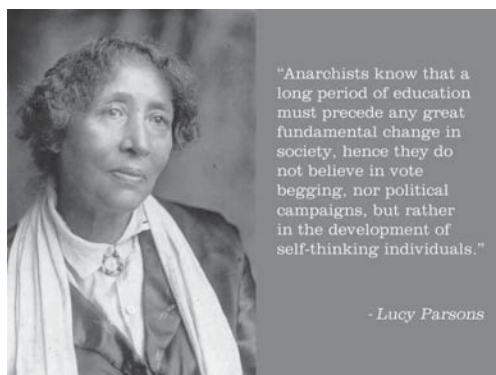


PRISONERS I KNOW AND HAVE KNOWN HAVE LITTLE IF ANY FAMILY AND FRIENDS WAITING FOR THEM WHEN THEY GET OUT OR WHO ARE ABLE TO OFFER POST INCARCERATION SUPPORT.

ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE BOTH TRANSITIONS ARE BIG AND VERY IMPORTANT FOR PRISONER SUPPORT GROUPS TO SERIOUSLY STRATEGIZE ON HOW TO COMBAT THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF BOTH TRANSITIONS WHILE BUILDING EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT SYSTEMS AROUND THESE THINGS. IN MY OPINION, POST INCARCERATION SUPPORT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT ON MANY LEVELS, ESPECIALLY AS A METHOD TO ABOLISHING THE MASSIVE PRISON APPARATUS, WHICH I'LL EXPLAIN WHY.

I GREW UP IN A WORKING CLASS FAMILY. HOWEVER, JUST BECAUSE MOST OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS WORKED WHEN I WAS A KID DOESNT MEAN WE WERE WEALTHY. QUITE THE OPPOSITE IN FACT. WE WERE POOR LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK. THANKFULLY I ALWAYS HAD A ROOF OVER MY HEAD. AT AN EARLY AGE I BEGAN TO SEEK MONEY TO HELP GET WHAT MY FAMILY COULDN'T ALWAYS AFFORD. SO MY LIFE OF HUSTLING AND "CRIME" BEGAN. PRISONS AND JAILS SOON BECAME A NORMAL PART OF MY LIFE. I WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON ALMOST 3 YEARS AGO AFTER SERVING 10 YEARS FOR A NON VIOLENT DRUG OFFENCE. AND SO FROM MY EXPERIENCES, THE BIGGEST AND MOST DIFFICULT TRANSITION WAS GETTING RELEASED BACK INTO SOCIETY. THANKFULLY, I HAD A LOVING WIFE, FWs, ACTIVISTS, FRIENDS, AND COMRADES OUT HERE BY MY SIDE AND ABLE TO OFFER SUPPORT IN MANY FORMS. BUT I'VE ALSO BEEN ON THE SIDE WHERE I'VE GOTTEN OUT AND DIDNT HAVE A DAMN THING BUT MY GATE MONEY IN MY POCKET. WITH THAT BEING SAID, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT ASSISTING ECONS IN SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITIONING BACK INTO SOCIETY (AND STAYING OUT) IS A CRUCIAL COMPONENT IN THE ABOLISHMENT OF PRISONS. WHICH IS WHY I REALLY ENCOURAGE PEOPLE WHO FREQUENTLY ASK ME HOW THEY CAN SUPPORT PRISONERS OR WHAT CAN THEY DO TO HELP IWOC. START CREATING MORE DIALOGUES ABOUT POST RELEASE SUPPORT STRATEGIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDING. THERE ARE MANY THINGS A PRISONERS HAS TO DEAL WITH WHEN THEY ARE KICKED BACK OUT TO THE STREETS. THINGS THAT THE AVERAGE PERSON MAY NOT THINK OF AS A BIG DEAL. BUT TO SOMEONE WHO HAVE SPENT LOTS OF YEARS IN PRISON AND IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT UNITS, THE SMALL THINGS CAN TURN INTO HUGE STRUGGLES FOR AN EXCON. A STRUGGLE THAT CAN POSSIBLY AFFECT ONES DECISION MAKING PROCESS THAT COULD ALSO LEAD TO THEM BEING SENT BACK TO PRISON. AN EXCON HAS TO QUICKLY FIGURE OUT HOUSING NEEDS, OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT, REBUILD FAMILY TIES, HOW TO EAT, MAYBE DEAL WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES, PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP ISSUES, MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES PICKED UP BECAUSE OF INCARCERATION AND OR LONG TERM ISOLATION (I SPENT OVER HALF OF MY PRISON TERM IN SOLITARY UNITS BECAUSE OF MY FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE STATES RULES OF INCARCERATION AND ORGANIZE PRISONERS AROUND VARIOUS INJUSTICES) HOW TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE WHO AREN'T EX CONS AND SO ON. SHIT, I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT WHAT AN HAS TO DEAL WITH ON A REGULAR. SOME PEOPLE MIGHT SAY, "WELL AT LEAST THEY GOT THEIR FREEDOM BACK". AND ID SAY, REALLY! I'M STILL TRYING TO SHAKE THE OSTRACIZATION OF BEING A FELON AND STILL WORKING ON TRANSITIONING BACK OUT HERE TO THE FREE WORLD SO MANY ARE FONDLY OF SAYING.

AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, I HAD LOTS OF SUPPORT FROM FWS AND FRIENDS WHILE I WAS LOCKED UP THAT CARRIED OVER TO POST INCARCERATION SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY. WITHOUT THAT I CAN SAY ID PROBABLY BE BACK IN PRISON. FOR A PRISONER, WRITING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTIVIST, REVOLUTIONARY, ETC. IS PRICELESS. AS IT CAN BREATHE LIFE AND HOPE INTO A PRISONER WHO CONSTANTLY ON THE BRINK OF PERSONAL DISASTER. IT GIVES A PRISONER THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THE OUTSIDE WHO CARE AND WHO WANT TO CHANGE ALL THE FUCKED UP SHIT GOING ON TOO. IT GIVES THEM INSPIRATION TO BREAK THE MENTAL SHACKLES OF INCARCERATION . IN MY CASE,



Bad Karma

By Keith 'Comrade Malik' Washington

You were vested with authority in order to oversee and care for those whose lives had become a bust.

Instead of sustenance and care you traumatized, degrade, and dehumanized your charges, blatantly violating the public's trust.

For years I observed you—patiently I waited behind the scenes.

You grew arrogant and cocky—puffed up with pride—thinking it was ok to mistreat society's throw-aways and discarded humyn beings.

When the vulnerable cried out for Justice—you cleaned up the crime scenes and pretended as if the deaths were accidents, always claiming the Agency did no wrong.

We let you get away and as a result you became very confident that weak indigent prisoners could never overcome the strong.

But perceptions of the oppressors are just subjective feelings not always based on FACT.

Your crimes have caught up with you now and No Power in this world can ever Hold us Back!

Did you really believe you'd get away after hurting all these innocent people? No recompense, no pay back, totally scot-free??

Not so fast STATE of Texas I have something very special for the media and the public to see!!

What you dished out will be given back in dividends—10 times worse in the END.

My name is BAD Karma and I'm definitely not your friend.

Remember the elderly and disabled at Estelle you allowed them to be beat-I was there.

Remember when we asked Senator Whitmire to intervene—he said he didn't CARE!

Remember when we asked if the water at Pack I was poison—you said it was ok.

Remember the suicides which were actually murders—you took our sons, brothers, husbands, fathers brutally away!

Well, all those things are catching up with you Gregg; are you ready, it is now Judgment Day.

I won't announce when I'm coming bust surely I will Arrive.

I'm Bad Karma; isn't Destiny Great don't you feel blessed to be Alive?

Well it's over—you've been found out—you most certainly did nothing great.

I'm Bad Karma, here to show the world what happens to Government officials who make a living sowing seeds of HATE!

This poem is dedicated to Benjamin LaRue, a mentally ill prisoner and friend of Malik who recently was found dead in his cell at the Eastham Ad-seg unit in Lovelady Texas

Revolutionizer Rebel

In my earlier years of schooling, I was educated on the theory of cause and effect (an oxymoron in my opinion). The premise of this theory is that for every action there is an equal or greater reaction. If you pull back a pendulum and then let it go, it will mightily flow forward and return with greater force. Likewise, if one would lightly thrust a ball down a slope, it will travel with a much greater force. This nation motivated me to contemplate our radical summons and the optimal perception of ourselves as revolutionaries, as advocates against an oppressive system. While there is nothing wrong with the titled mission, our true victory lies in how we define ourselves and the adaption of a proper identity. A revolutionary is defined as one who causes a radical or complete change. A revolutionizer is defined as one who changes radically. The revolutionary takes a passive position i.e., acts upon a problem once it becomes known, the revolutionizer reveals the problem through change, he takes an active position. As revolutionizers we put an end to cruel and unusual punishment via segregation confinement for refusing to work (in Illinois) through administrative policy change condemning such form of punishment. (effective April 2017)

As revolutionizers we are called upon to take up our sword (remembering that the pen is mightier than the sword) and make that change occur by writing our U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator to call for an amendment to the second clause of the 13th amendment. We must ask that in the age of the Donald J. Trump presidency and the Congressional condemnation of his refusal to denounce white supremacy in this country, the eradication of the image of slavery from the U.S. Capital and public parks, how can congress in the current state of American colorblindness support any form of slavery that disproportionately targets black and brown citizens of America, their constituents! Write your congressional member at:

Office of Representative (Name), United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510;

Office of Senator (Name), United State Senate, Washington, DC 20510 and urge "Pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution" for the amending of clause 2 of the 13th amendment.

Paul Lee I.W.W. Member #X386267

Would you like to remain a member of the IWW? Yes _____ No _____ I need more information _____
Have you received a new member packet? (You should have received the Constitution and One Big Union)

Yes _____ No _____ I don't know, send me one if I am a member _____

If you have an organization that you would like to have listed on our web site as a supporter of IWW/IWOC,

please state the name of the organization _____ and your

position in it _____ and we will list it on our supporters page.

COMMENTS BELOW WILL BE READ AT THE 2018 IWOC CONFERENCE ON MAY 24th AND 25th!!!

Comments:

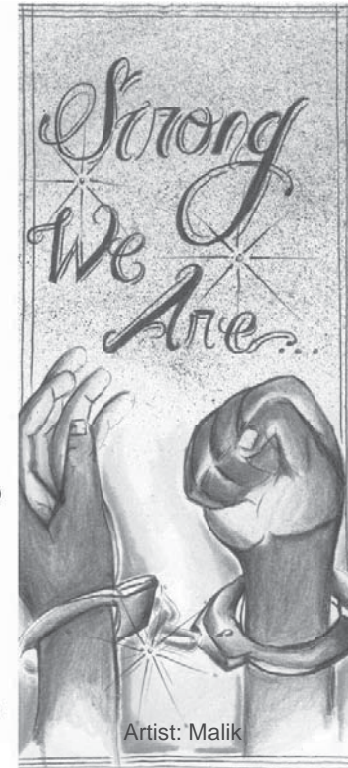
CORRESPONDING WITH FWS ASSISTED IN MY OWN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RE AWAKENING. WHICH IS WHY I ALSO ALWAYS STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF PRISONER LETTER WRITING. BUT LETTER WRITING AND SUCH PRISONER SUPPORT SHOULD NOT STOP WHEN A PRISONER GETS RELEASED FROM PRISON. SHIT, IN MY OPINION, IF YOU ARE WRITING A LOCAL PRISONER THEN YOU SHOULD REALLY MAKE IT A GOAL TO MEET THEM WHEN THEY GET OUT. I DO KNOW THAT IT'S NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE. I'VE BEEN HONORED BY BEING ABLE TO MEET MANY OF THE PEOPLE I USED TO CORRESPOND WITH OVER THE YEARS WHILE IN PRISON. IT'S A WONDERFUL FEELING TO BE ABLE TO SAY THANK YOU IN PERSON AND TO ORGANIZE ALONG SIDE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO YOU USED TO WRITE TO ABOUT DOING SUCH THINGS. FOR AN EXCON, KNOWING YOU HAVE THE SUPPORT OF A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE AND THAT THEY WILL HAVE YOUR BACK WHEN SHIT HITS THE FAN DRASTICALLY HELPS IN THE TRANSITION BACK OUT TO THE STREETS. HAVING A COMRADE YOU CAN CALL AND GO TO FOR ADVICE AND POSITIVE BUT REVOLUTIONARY ADVICE IS SOMETHING THE PRISON SYSTEM CAN NEVER TAKE AWAY. SINCE SO MANY EX CONS DONT HAVE STRONG FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TIES THIS CREATES A PERPETUAL CLASS OF PEOPLE RETURNING BACK TO PRISON. SO WHEN WE SHOW A PRISONER AND EX CONS SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT IN ACTION WE ARE TRULY CHIPPING AWAY AT THE PRISON SYSTEM AS WE ARE GIVING AWAY ALTERNATIVE WHILE TEACHING AND LEARNING THINGS AS WE GO.

WHAT CAN WE AS IWOC DO TO BUILD STRONGER POST RELEASE INFRASTRUCTURE IM ALSO FREQUENTLY ASKED. GIVING NEW EX CONS ORGANIZING ASSIGNMENTS IN THEIR LOCAL IWOC IS A GOOD WAY TO HELP ONE STAY OCCUPIED AND GROUNDED AND MAYBE AN IWOC EXCON TO NEW EXCON MENTORSHIP SYSTEM WOULD BE SOMETHING TO CONSIDER. HAVING SOMEONE THAT CAN BE CALLED UPON FOR HELP, ADVICE, ETC THAT CAN RELATE TO THEM HELPED ME BIG TIME. I KNOW NOT EVERY IWW BRANCH HAS JOB PLUGS, BUT GETTING YOUR BRANCH TOGETHER TO PULL JOB RESOURCES TO HELP NEW EX CONS WITH JOB HUNTING IS ANOTHER IDEA. REMEMBER, A PRISONER WHO IS JUST ABOUT TO GET RELEASED FROM PRISON DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF RESOURCES AND JOB LEADS AND OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT HAS AND CONTINUES TO BE A STRESSFUL STRUGGLE FOR ME. IT'S GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE I'VE ALMOST SAID, "FUCK IT, I'M JUST GOING TO START HUSTLING AGAIN". WHICH WOULD HAVE LED ME DOWN A PATH BACK TO PRISON. WITH THAT BEING SAID, I HOPE ALL WHO READS THIS REALLY SITS DOWN AND THINKS ABOUT THE BIG TRANSITIONS AND HOW WE AS IWOC CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY ASSIST THOSE WHO ARE GOING THREW THEM AND BREAK DOWN THE WALLS OF INCARCERATION.

KNOWLEDGE V. EDUCATION

Amidst the intelligentsia and skilled craftsmen of the proletariat, there exists an invisible hand. This hand sorts men, lifting some up whilst holding others down, not according to their knowledge nor abilities, but according to the prerequisite imperialist education. And those possessing pieces of paper, signifying that all which they know has been learned under the auspices of one of their "Hallowed" institutions, occupy a class of men whom take precedent over those who have garnered their knowledge through

Artist: Heather Brooke



Artist: Malik

experience, through blood and sweat, through natural talent and innate intelligence, or through a prodigious passion for their craft.

Ask yourself: Which holds more value, knowledge or education? For all intents and purposes, it's knowledge. So why does society favor the educated over the knowledgeable? Because an education can be controlled, it can be molded and shaped to keep information in its preferable context. An education is simply information input management, minimizing independent thinking to maintain a status quo. It's knowledge, however, that breeds change and promotes progress, because when there is no filter on the input of thought, then there is none on the output either. That is really the main difference between knowledge and education: That one comes already assembled, and one you have to put together yourself.

Robert McCracken "LG8344", SCI-Greene, 175 Progress Dr., Waynesboro, PA 15370

DIRECTORY

Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Email	Phone	Web Site
Oakland IWOC	PO Box 6305	Oakland	CA	94603		510-368-3426	
Connecticut IWOC	PO Box 204107	New Haven	CT	06520			
DC IWOC	PO Box 1303	Washington	DC	20013			
CMC c/o Gainesville IWOC	433 S. Main St.	Gainesville	FL	32601			
Chicago IWOC	PO Box 220224	Chicago	IL	60622			
TC IWOC	PO Box 581561	Minneapolis	MN	55458			
IWOC	PO Box 414304	Kansas City	MO	64141	iwoc@riseup.net		https://incarceratedworkers.org/
Missoula IWOC	91 Campus Dr. PMB 2615	Missoula	MT	59801			
Greenville IWOC	PO Box 206	Greenville	NC	27835			
NY IWOC	PO Box 721, 1132 Southern Blvd	Bronyx	NY	10459	iwoc.nyc@riseup.net	347-774-1397	
Ohio IWOC	PO Box 6042	Cincinnati	OH	45206			
Portland IWOC	2249 E Burnside St	Portland	OR	97214			
Tidewater, VA IWW	PO Box 1878	Norfolk	VA	23501			
Olympia IWW c/o IWOC	PO Box 1293	Olympia	WA	98507			
Milwaukee IWOC	PO Box 342294	Milwaukee	WI	53234			
UK IWOC	PO Box 7593	Glasgow	G42 2EX	UK	iwoc@iww.org.uk	0800 9989 149	http://incarceratedworkers.noflag.org.uk/

Prison Industrial Slave Complex

The prison industrial slave complex continues to bury revolutionaries in the concrete tomb, we call SHU. (security housing unit) These practices are ongoing, although the names are changing, as to camouflage the masses. Instead of gang members & associates, they now say security threat group 1 & 2, in order to widen the net of SHU placement. SHU has now been replaced with Adseg (Administrative Segregation) Where the length of time used to be short, until you went to the SHU, but now it is long, with the rules violation reports 115's ICC (institutional classification committee) waits and the rotating of the counselor who handles your case, to I.G.I wardens, and other bureaucrats who get transferred weekly.

I see inmates come back in here daily, and soon as a cell is empty, it's full within a day. The infractions are frivolous, fist fights, access to work tools that can be used as a weapon, someone lying on you and doing the pigs bidding by planting contraband, to organizing around a boycott and attempting to build unity amongst the masses on your yard to get descent programing. Solitary confinement needs to be abolished instead of being used to fill the pockets of the bureaucrats, who get paid triple the amount of housing prisoners than it does if you're in general population. We are looked at as commodities and used for our labor in population, but within the bowels of the belly of the beast, we are buried alive. Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win, A Jamu Watu, A servant to the people...

Editor's Notes

Dear comrades and fellow workers, I sincerely apologize for the not-so-graceful hiatus that our newsletter has taken. Then I must extend



rarely held liable for the great and small damages they cause to employees and the communities in which they operate. We need to have state and federal courts and legislation to revisit the concept of corporation and re-integrate them into society, making them contributors to a stability for the people to be prosperous rather than oppressed by the ruthless dictators of corporate policies. The laws do not force corporation to pay a fair share of taxes that support the communities in which they operate. Corporations shift their work production out of the communities into the prison system avoiding taxes that they should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. These multinational corporations that profit from the cheapest labor, cheapest working conditions and least protection for workers. But the U.S. government has provided "corporate welfare" to corporations to promote American corporations at the expense of societal needs. There's hundreds of billions of dollars that clogs every U.S. budget from corporate welfare that should be re-directed toward rebuilding the American infrastructure with American labor. If the federal and state laws were directed toward corporation rebuilding from the tax dollars of the American community, this would create far more jobs and individual prosperity and stability for the people than any amount of "corporate welfare" can produce. Corporate America should recruit, train and pay a whole new generation to do what this country has been best inventing into the people industries and jobs of the future. Without a secure, prosperous working community, corporations grow and profit only with the support of government subsidies and policies that benefit corporations at the expense of the rest of the people at cheap labor from a prison system. All Americans have a right to expect to find a job, which will provide income for basic necessities to support a family. It's well known that the minimum wage level is long overdue for improvement. Tens of millions of Americans cannot afford even basic health care under present cheap labor wage. Every other developed nation in the world has quality health care for man, woman and child. The U.S.A. is the strongest country in the world that other countries look to for help, but the U.S.A. does not provide adequate health care or educational facilities. Economic pregnancies are carried to term and the child is brought into an unsupportive environment. The people need to create a special commission to study, discuss with the people of this country and drastically revise our laws that gives corporations the authority to make policies so as to minimize the wages for cheap labor.

Greetings Fellow Worker,

I hope this message finds you in good spirits and in good health! We would like to hear from everyone at least twice twice a year to verify your membership so that you may vote in the annual referendum and continue receiving the newsletter. You may include this along with a letter to us and multiple people are welcome to send these slips in together in a single envelope to save on postage. Please tear off this portion of this page and mail it back to us at IWOC, PO Box 414304, KC, MO, 64141 or if you want to keep your newsletter intact, you can just write the information on a separate sheet of paper. Also, ****IMPORTANT NOTE**** please include feedback on the other side of this form for us to read at the 2018 IWOC conference which will be held on May 24th and 25th.

In Solidarity!
IWOC _____ Date _____

Your Name _____ DOC # _____

Your IWW Membership Number _____

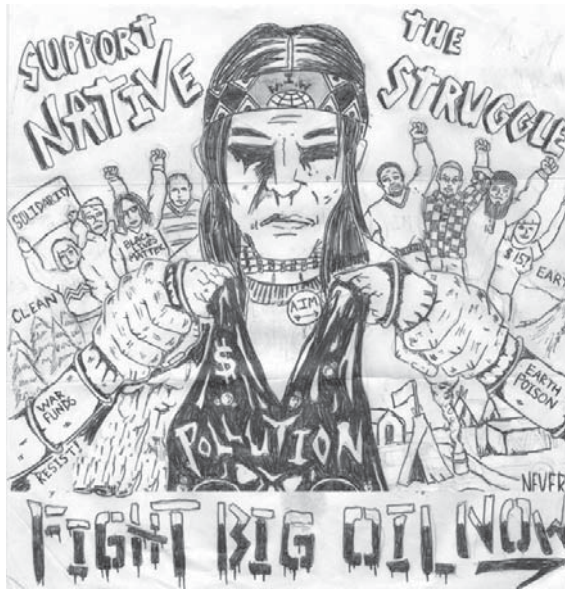
1st Emergency Contact Name (friend or family on the outside) _____

Emergency Contact Phone _____ and Email _____

2nd Emergency Contact Name (friend or family on the outside) _____

Emergency Contact Phone _____ and Email _____

May we contact your emergency person regarding local prisoner support efforts? Yes _____ No _____



under-educated in favor of moving jobs from the people of the U.S.A. abroad. The U.S.A. lost 1.9 million manufacturing jobs over the past decade because of prison labor government has learned to produce more with less labor and cost. The last decade our government has replaced brains and brawns with technology and a small amount of brawns. This trend is growing and it's a real danger to American prosperity and competitive edge by low wages of a prison industrial system used for service-sector and high skill jobs.

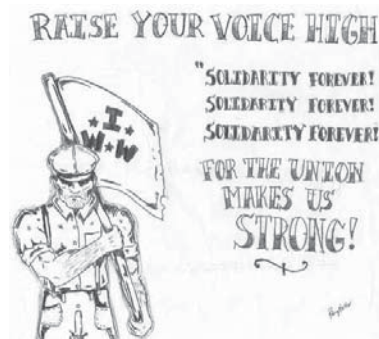
America's prison system has become a scandal and blot on America's international reputation. While the conditions in our prison violates numerous U.N. treaties and covenant and other international laws. State and federal legislatures have passed Mandatory laws to enhance charges and impose harder sentences; all is applied with severe racial and economic bias, with the result that African- American males are ten times more likely to be incarcerated than other American males with the exception of Native Americans. The federal bureau of Justice Statistics has calculated that 28% percent of black men will serve time in jail or prison in their lifetime. Although African-Americans make up 13% percent of this Nations people they account for 37% percent of this Nations arrest, and 55% percent of those convicted and 74% percent of those sentenced to prison. In this country to be African-American and charged with a crime it is more important to be able to afford a good, experienced trial lawyer than it is to have a "good case" when charged with a crime. Most of the people who are filling our jail and prisons were convicted of charges which sentence is not over to 5 or 10 years. Incarcerating these types of crimes are more costly and deadly to American society because of the job effect that it would have on the people of society. We the people need to establish a new relationship between society, corporation and labor which will create a prosperous stable benefit for the people. The people do not make a profit when they have too little disposable income to make adequate capital investments, all because jobs are very scarce where either capital or labor rules. Court decisions and legislation have given corporations all the rights and few of the responsibilities are given to the people. Privileges and protection are not available to the people for the laws of our courts and legislation actions.

Corporation law protect heads of these corporations and they are

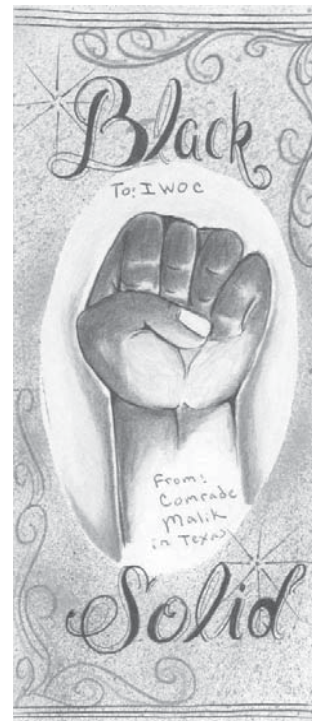
misery of millions of Americans.

Billions of dollars building and operating prisons designed to separate prisoners from human decency and family support, and to deny them the physical, mental, social and spiritual facilities necessary for human development and rehabilitation.

Murderers, rapists, petty thieves and non-violent offences where men, women and children are all subjected to degradation and inhumane treatment, allowed after Supreme Court review as acceptable within American standards. The U.S.A. is the leading country that teach religion for spiritual growth, and respect for every human being. But the U.S.A. lack in the obligation to care for the poor people, the sick people, the un-educated people, those without jobs, the imprisoned and the possibility of change and redemption for any person at any time of life. But the politicians of this country talk about benefits, profits, jobs, education, crime, economic and etc. All of this creates compassion for a system which results in continued support for a vile down fall of the peoples under-privileged and



deeper apologies towards all the members who i've always consulted for editing, advice and other guidance towards making your newsletter more perfect. you are not forgotten and i will be back in sync with you all now. special thanks to all the outside iwoc members who've helped me get this back together, and even more thanks to the guidance and reviews to the members of iwoc who are ex-prisoners. now, here is a very brief timeline of some updates on the struggle against prison slavery starting from the last issue where we mentioned august 19th and the millions for prisoners march. 8/19/17: our comrades at jailhouse lawyers speak in the carolinas organized a call-out for a millions for prisoners march. iwoc and other allied groups held demonstrations all over the u.s. including d.c.! prison guards in several facilities began lock-downs and other heightened security measures were taken out of fear of another strike. this premature move by the prison administrations shows that they fear our collective strength, and that we are all doing something right. 10/12/17: it has been a busy during months, with prison uprisings seen in kansas, south carolina, arkansas and north carolina. however, one of the most alarming cases was with our comrades at jailhouse lawyers speak who described fellow incarcerated workers being denied water saying, "the unit i am in is currently still locked down. the rest of the general population has resumed normal routines. our lockdown status is because we refused to return to our cells after they denied us water friday. my current unit is f4. we will not be allowed visits, rec, or showers due to our demand for water. throughout the water crisis we were only given one cup of water a day. a cup of milk for brunch but no



water. some of us thought we were going to die of thirst. others went on to drink the contaminated water. yes, for every meal, pigs were there with big weapons ready to engage us if we demanded water." the situation escalated into a riot where incarcerated workers took over whole blocs of mccormick correctional for 3 hours until the guards regained control. 11/17-11/13/17: brazilian incarcerated workers go on a record strike against prison slavery and exploitation. the strike lasted a week and reached several states across the country. spokesmen of the strike said that they were inspired by the free alabama movement and iiww incarcerated worker strike that rocked the world on september 9th. one of our contacts stated, "'in the name of the few with whom i was able to get in contact during the strike (telephone use was restricted to direct family), i want to pass on to everyone here gratitude for the support and solidarity. when i told them that there were people all over the world who knew about the strike and demonstrating their support, especially prisoners all over the world, this information transformed into energy and empowered many of those men. the support that everyone here gave was very important for this also i thank you.'. the strike ended and we are still digging for more updates on our comrades' progress. 12/30/17: allard seg. unit in tx goes on collective hunger strike against the dire conditions at their facility. 1/1/18: the annual tradition of noise demos outside of prisons, jails, and detention centers all over the world took place on new year's eve. here is a photo of one of the noise demos outside a detention center in montreal. incarcerated workers on the inside cheered and raised their fists as the noise began and fireworks were set off. 1/15/18 operation push takes off in fl on martin luther king day. several intuitions throughout the state go on strike. we are still trying to determine the total number of incarcerated workers on strike. national attention was reached and demonstrations and acts of solidarity were reported all over the country. photos are included of a solidarity noise demo outside the headquarters of the fl department of corrections that iwoc comrades and other groups organized. enclosed is a statement by the haitian prisoners of fl as call to action for operation push,





which was released shortly before the strike began: exposing the lies of the state of florida it's high time to expose the rulers, law makers, and law enforcers in florida and in this country at large. therefore we are calling on the people of this state to help put a stop to all the injustice, lies, and deceit once and for all, especially those of us, whom through trickery, have been victimized and as a result are entangled in the web of lies and deceit. throughout the presidential campaign, donald trump, now this nation's president, was adamant about deporting illegal and criminal immigrants. he was met with a hard fight with the governors of the states (especially the democratic party). why? because immigrants are their bread and butter. the american people have always been led to believe that their leaders wisely put tax payers dollars to good use to keep the street of this country safe by

keeping criminals off the streets. the truth is tax dollars do not fund prisons, prisoners do. how? free labor force!!! prisons in america are nothing but a different form of slavery, plantations and the citizens of the country are walking zombie banks. there are so many haitians, jamaican, and latinos in the fdoc serving sentences that exceeds life expectancy and or life sentences who are not being deported. they use all immigrants, for free labor and then deport them. why flood the system with immigrants waiting to be deported after serving their entire sentence? because of the benefit. the undeniable truth is florida prisoners are slaves who work and do not get paid. new age slaves within the prisons system!!! shortly after the strike: incarcerated workers from angola, la report a victorious hunger strike. freezing conditions had damaged the heaters in the facility and froze the pipes. several blocs of incarcerated workers from the facility went on mass hunger strike in protest of this negligence. within 24hrs of the strike the administration cracked and had several repair crews sent in. solidarity forever y'all!

First Incarcerated Worker IU Branch Forming

Mandingo Warriors & Associates—IWW/IWOC Announces Their Formation

The Industrial Workers of the World's (IWW) Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC) is excited to announce our first Incarcerated Workers IU613 branch application. The charter is currently being reviewed by the IWW's General Executive Board. When approved, this will be the first ever IU613 Branch in IWW history. In fact it will be the very first Incarcerated Workers union branch period. Below is their announcement of the formation and a riveting history of prison organizing over the past few decades.

Revolutionary Greetings Fellow Workers, On behalf of "Mandingo Warriors & Associates—IWW/IWOC," we would like to express our most sincere gratitude and appreciation regarding the valuable time, efforts and sacrifices that you, along with the entire IWW/IWOC revolutionary family of this Struggle, have put into this difficult and complex "dilemma" of pursuing the necessary steps required to "effectively" assist in the organizing of those of us, whom are incarcerated within the numerous "Business Corporations" disguised as "Reformative Institutions" (Aka Prisons), around Unifying Principles and a Universal Philosophy that is inclusive of all of Humanity (this is definitely a Struggle Rooted in Equality for all of Humanity and not just the Few & Wealthy!)....

We shall hope and pray that all of our Comrades, in the "Semi-Free Society," are doing well and are enjoying the best of health possible. Your most recent communication (dated: 10/20/17) was well received and we look forward to receiving future communications from any and all



8

for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." After gathering the proof and analyzing the facts, we shall see the truth: Those in power were purely racially and economically motivated to simply remodel "Plantations" and rename them "Penitentiaries." While simply recognizing the truth of our condition might not directly release the shackles and chains off our hands & feet, I hope it will unshackle our minds, unlock our potential, and we can demand the slave masters to free our bodies. I'm also hoping those who have NO! "been duly convicted" (viz, pretrial detainees) yet been forced into involuntary servitude, start demanding their Human & Constitutional Rights to be paid fair wages, as they too are being underpaid like a lot of immigrants in this country who are forced to "work" for what likewise amount to pennies-a-day slave wages & are deprived of the benefits those similarly employed receive, such as overtime pay, Medical & Dental Insurance, etc. The illusion the Exception Clause creates causes the slave masters to believe they have all the needed power to profit off the modern day slave trade. But what the slave masters also realizes—and prays their slaves never recognize—is that the slave trade cannot exist for a single moment without the cooperation of the slaves—whether the slaves cooperate willing or are forced to cooperate—and if the slaves suddenly withdraw their cooperation in every form, the Slave Trade would cease to exist. Can you imagine what would happen of the slave, instead of mowing the slave master's lawn defecated on it and told him to mend his fucking fences? Considering the ill nature of the slave master, we can easily predict his immediate responds. But what would happen when he realizes his threats and/or bribery no longer worked & the slave no longer feared his acts of brutality, and the slave left the slave master's crops in the field to rot? If you can't imagine what would happen then maybe you need to start and ask yourself whether it's better dying on your feet than living on your knees because thinkers aren't limited by what they know; they can always increase what they know. They're only limited by what puzzles them. Because there's no way to become curious about something that doesn't puzzle you. As an often overlooked overworked and underappreciated Social Class, we M.U.S.T. (Man up * Stand Tall), free the chains on our mind before we can even logically think about freeing the chains on our bodies. The slave master only censors what the slaves read, listen to (music, lectures, etc.) and watch (TV Programs, movies, etc.) in order to control how the slaves think. Because if one can control how another person thinks, one can control how the person acts. Renew your thinking and a renewal of action—or lack thereof—will follow. A song, "I Gave You Power," by the lyricist Nas depicts how it is the gun, and not the man who holds it, who ultimately has the power. We, the oppressed Black/Brown, Yellow and poor White people, are the guns and ones who ultimately giving our oppressors the power to oppress us. Ultimately, all power comes from the people. So, all power must ultimately be vested in the people. Anything less is theft. And it's about time we tell these greedy motherfuckers: "Get your hand out my pocket!" Anarchy... Decarcerate by all means!



Artist: Reed-EL
"Larry" C'Allah



I submit the above article for publication in "The Incarcerated Worker"

Abdul Malik El-Shabazz "FW4874, SCI Rockview, 1 Rockview Place, Box A, Bellefonte, PA 16823-0820

VICTIMS OF CHEAP LABOR

BY SHEIK MARK MOORE EL

The U.S.A. has created and maintain perhaps the most consciously vicious and costly prison system in the world today which has increasingly corporate system that profits greatly on the stock market through the

13

BOOKS TO PRISONERS

Liberation Library @ In These Times 2040 N Milwaukee Ave Chicago, IL 60647		Books Through Bars 4722 Baltimore Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19143	Big House Books PO Box 55586 Jackson, MS 39296
Chicago Books to Women in Prison c/o RFUMC 4511 N. Hermitage Ave. Chicago, IL 60640	Inside Books c/o 12th St. Books 3121 E. 12th St. Austin, TX 78702	Appalachian Prison Book Project PO Box 601 Morgantown, WV 26507	Book 'Em PO Box 71357 Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Urbana-Champaign Books to Prisoners Project PO Box 515 Urbana, IL 61803	Read Between The Bars Box 1589 Tucson, AZ 85702	DC Books to Prisons Project PO BOX 34190 Washington DC, 20043	UAAA Prison Books 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Cleveland Books 2 Prisoners PO Box 602440 Cleveland, OH 44102	Prisoners Literature Project 2022 Blake Street Berkeley, CA 94704	NYC Books Through Bars c/o Bluestockings Bookstore 172 Allen Street New York, NY 10002	Wisconsin Books to Prisoners 426 W. Gilman Street Madison, WI 53703
Kent Books to Prisoners CSI Box X KSU Student Center Kent, OH 44242	MIM's Free Political Books to Prisoners PO Box 40799 San Francisco, CA 94140	Prison Book Program 1306 Hancock Street Quincy, MA 02169	Women's Prison Book Project 2002 23rd Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55404
Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project 408 E. 6th St. Bloomington, IN 47408	Prison Library Project 586 West 1st St. Claremont, CA 91711	Olympia Books to Prisoners P.O. Box 912 Olympia, WA 98507	Books to Prisoners, Seattle c/o Left Bank Books 92 Pike St., Box A Seattle, WA 98101
Louisville Books to Prisoners c/o McQuixote's Books 1512 Portland Ave #1 Louisville, KY 40203	Books for Prisoners 0323 Student Center La Jolla, CA 92037	Portland Books to Prisoners 1112 NE Morton St Portland, OR 97211	Internationalist Prison Book Collective 405 West Franklin Street Chapel Hill, NC 27516
	Open Books Prison Book Project 1040 N. Guillemard St. Pensacola, FL 32501	Louisiana Books 2 Prisoners 1631 Elysian Fields #117 New Orleans, LA 70117	

POWERLESS OR POWERFUL

By Comrade Abdul-Malik El-Shabazz

As I watch fellow prisoners clean up bird feces due to prison officials refusal to do anything about infestations of pigeons in the Housing Units, and see fellow prisoners mow the lawns & mend the fences of the 100+ year old concentration camp, I can't help but to contemplate the mental condition of the approx. 2.2 Million prisoners in the USA, and recall a Proverb I heard 15+ years ago upon first being inducted into the PA Department of Corruptions: "It talks about a man and that which he knows. After reading it once, you want to read it twice. No matter how many times you read it, it's still very good advice: (1) He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool-so shun him. (2) He who knows not and knows that he knows not, is a child—so teach him. (3) He who knows, and knows not that he knows, is asleep—so awake him. (4) He who knows, and knows that he knows, is wise—so draw near to him. This is so simply complex, but totally true. What part of this Proverb applies to you?" From the way we've been socially and environmentally conditioned, I tend to believe that #2 & #3 applies to the majority of prisoners, and goes to show the truth of what an Abolitionist said after helping lead over 300 slaves to freedom: "I could've helped free a whole lot more, if only I could've made them realize that they were slaves." —Harriet Tubman. After witnessing how brainwashed & Americanized too many of us are, I feel compelled to continue the uphill battle of helping us realize that we are slaves. Is not the government of man by man slavery? One can refer to a dictionary and approach the issue from an educational aspect—or even from either a legal, philosophical, Judaism-Christian or Islamic aspect and still reach the same conclusion. But I'll stick to the 13th Amendment of the US Constitution: "Neither slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment



IWW/IWOC members (with a robust invitation to the African People's Caucus) in the near future.

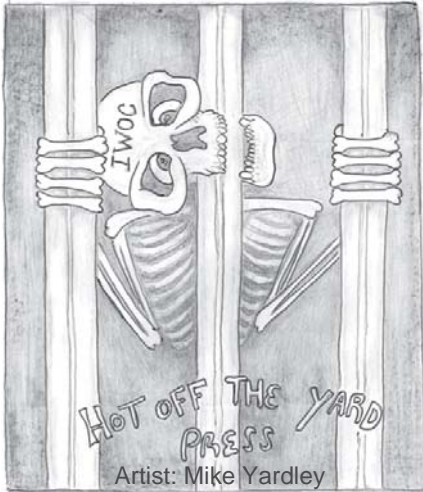
Before We/I begin to address your most recent letter, Comrade it is our responsibility to inform and make you guys aware of the latest developments concerning the Movement of our Branch... You guys will have no doubt noticed the change in name/title—"Mandingo Warriors & Associates—IWW/IWOC" (M.W.A.—IWW/IWOC), from the previous name--

A meeting was held, 10/27/17, in response to your letter and concerning IWW/IWOC's agenda in general. Amongst the few issues that were discussed and resolved, included the uncertainty of some, as-to whether IWW/IWOC represent the realities of True Revolutionary Movement, or, will the Tribe (another name used to describe the entirety of the M.W organization)—as a Revolutionary organization in-and-of-itself, be bounding itself, by mutual agreement, to Honor, Respect, Uphold and abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, Principles and General Philosophy (whenever related to IWW affairs) of a bunch of "Armchair" Revolutionaries, who pontificate upon revolutionary concepts, but, fall far short of actual Revolutionary Movement (The Tribe has been "burnt" by such "revolutionary organizations" before, in which "they talk a good game," but, when the "heat" is turned-up they are nowhere to be found...).

However, after a few of our Elder/Senior Tribal Members expounded upon the true significance of the "Statement On Prison Abolition Adopted by IWW At 2017 Convention, "specifically its wide margin of success (51-in favor) and coupled with the consistent efforts by you guys, our comrades within IWW/IWOC, in organizing campaigns in support of prisoners and assisting with the actual organizing of prisoners themselves, the statement declared by IWW is profound and proclaims Revolutionary Movement far more reaching than we would have expected (at-least, from "Armchair" revolutionaries—SMILE).

Our initial agreement, regarding the partnering with IWW/IWOC, consisted of a project that was narrowly tailored and confined to a specific single prison, in order to evaluate how successful the project would become an IWW branch, with the prospect of seeking membership for the entirety of The Tribe and promote IWW/IWOC's agenda throughout the state prison system (The Tribe has a Community/Village present at practically every prison in state.

Before the closing of our meeting, it was determined, declared and resolved that IWW/IWOC is "The Real Thing!" We will Move to include The Tribe as a whole to the membership base of IWW/IWOC and promote its/our agenda throughout the state prison system. Therefore, because of this resolution, a motion was presented to change the name of our IWW/IWOC Branch to MWA—IWW/IWOC (although M.Ws account for the majority and significant portion of our IWW/IWOC's membership base at the IWW-Branch, we're not all MW. Hence, "Associates"—some are Moors, of the Moorich Science Temple of America, and of course, there will be others who will join with no organizational affiliation.). The Motion passed unanimously... We are aware that the GEB reserve the right to "regulate the name of the body." However, we request that due consideration is given and at-



the-least, the initials "MWA-IWW/IWOC" be accepted as an official name (We must continue to Honor those fallen Comrades who gave their lives in order that the Revolutionary Movement continue with the Tribe moving forward.)

History

In the mid-to-late 70's and before the Ruiz rulings, where the Federal Courts stepped in attempting to reform the state brutal prison systems, state prisons were extremely more violent and oppressive than they are currently today. White Supremacy Organizations (WSO), such as the KKK and the Aryan Brotherhood, controlled the state prison system significantly through tactical use of violence, threats, intimidation and an iron-grip on control of daily necessities and important services offered to prisoners (in relations to "necessities," such as basics of life: food, water, sleep and medical care.). These WSO established their members on both sides of the prison system (guards & inmates) and people of color were their main target for their violence and oppression, along with many white inmates whom were deemed "N****er Lovers" and "F****s" (homosexuals...please excuse the expression)...in other words, white inmates who

had some form of "humanity" about themselves! Therefore, many were also "fair-game" for White Supremacist violence...Rape/Sexual violence, unprovoked murders, influence over the parole decision of an inmate and causing an inmate to suffer disciplinary actions through "bogus" rule infractions and much more were routine tactics, in order to instill fear and maintain control of the state prison system.

The main official system implemented and authorized by the state department of corrections was the "Building Attendant" named "Tern-Keys" by the inmate population and yes, they "inmates" (WSO) "literally" possessed "Keys" to the prison cells and control areas of the prison. The greatest percentage of turn-keys were members of WSO. However, there were some who were people of color, who fell under the protection of these WSO... survival in state prisons was a matter of life and death.

In the year 1983 and out of the necessity of survival, black prisoners in state formed an African cultural organization centered on Pan-Africanism and Black Nationalist Self-Defense Movement, so-named "Mandingo Warriors" (we claim our name and heritage from the ancient and great Mali Empire of West Africa), and through the merger of two Black Nationalist organizations, this was accomplished.

MW was formed for the purpose of protection of its members and as a vanguard of the Revolution and prison reform within the Justice System. Bloody wars were fought opposing the oppression of WSO and many were killed or severely injured on both sides, until a truce was called a few years later and an agreement on both sides ended the "Prison Wars."

With some breathing room, The Tribe initiated the legal fight for reform inside of state prisons. Because of this decision, minor skirmishes with guards and WSO-inmates resumed (However, nowhere near the level of violence during the "Prison Wars."). Although, Mandingo Warriors found some success in the Federal Courts—through the Ruiz rulings (MW assisted Ruiz with the class action suit, whenever possible), DOC-WSO devised a plan of execution to label Mandingo Warriors a "gang" instead of a political organization and moved to force all Tribal Members into administrative segregation. Another legal battle began, with MW challenging DOC action.

Although Mandingo Warriors found success in the Federal Courts once again and were released from Administrative Segregation in the early to mid-'90s, DOC initiated its own version of the FBI "COIN-TEL" Program—designed to disrupt, dismantle and destroy the MW-Tribe. The usual tactics of divide and conquer were used. Infiltration of MW rank-&-file was employed by DOC in which would cause



significant chaos between those who wanted to stray from the roots and purpose of the Tribe and embark on a course detrimental to the Tribe and its mission. During this period of internal conflict & chaos, mid-'90s – early 2000's, the reputation of the Tribe, as a vanguard of the people and Revolutionary Organization, suffered significantly. However, not so much that it could not be repaired.

Members, who understood what was happening within the Tribe took the initiative and made the necessary sacrifices to bring the Tribe securely back to its primary purpose for existing.

It has taken some long and enduring years to accomplish this and we have only recently (within the past few years) begun to really focus on external movement and taking steps to strengthen our outside base (and yes, it need a lot of work at the moment, but, we continue to Move Forward).

We have present this very brief view of MW history, in order that you guys may have some initial knowledge of who are amongst IWW/IWOC ranks...And, of course, as with any and all organizations, our history has an unfortunate period of confusion and chaos, in-that some "imposters" used the standing of this Tribe for their own personal agenda and like any other organization, those whom are true to their principles, will take the necessary measures to correct any position contrary to the mission, as this be true for us as well.

There may be some who will spout negative sentiments in regards to the Tribe, because of possible bad experiences or witness to such, perpetrated by "someone" claiming to be Mandingo, but in truth the struggle never rested in the center of their heart, then there will be many who will praise the strength, discipline and movement of the Tribe...and for them is much LOVE...

We/I have been tasked with the duty & responsibility of devising, implementing and overseeing a Plan-of-Action that will effectively coordinate the logistics of establishing IWW/IWOC membership, initially for MWs, throughout the state prison system, with the expansion of this general Plan-of-Action, reaching out to encourage the Muslim Community to seek membership as well. Within six months – one year, we are confident that it is possible to enlarge the inside IWW/IWOC membership base by at least a significant percentage. The matter of establishing outside IWW/IWOC membership amongst family & friends of MWA, will not be my charge (although, I may be required to assist). Those kindreds in the "Free World" will tasked to organizing and promoting under IWW/IWOC agenda.

Comrades, please [also] be advised, we have begun the process of initiating an inside & outside new membership drive, and formation of chartered IWW/IWOC Branch(es) at several more inside facilities. We have also begun the process of establishing several IWOC's locales/groups on the outside, with hopes and encouragement of pursuing the formation of a chartered IWW/IWOC outside Branch(es) in the near future.



The outside IWOC-Locale(s) will be located [in Southern states]. We have notified each individual responsible for ensuring that the new membership drive & formation of inside IWW/IWOC Branches (outside IWOC-Locale(s) are implemented, and that, IWW/IWOC Headquarters will contact each of them with all necessary information, in order to develop a reasonable understanding of IWW/IWOC's goals and mission, and how to accomplish chartering an IWW Branch. Outside comrades have been provided with the necessary contact info of IWW/IWOC Headquarters and have been encouraged to contact you guys and collaborate on the overall strategy of establishing inside IWW/IWOC chartered Branches.

Signed: Mandingo Warriors & Associates—IWW/IWOC

